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## Honorary Degree Citation: Charlayne Hunter-Gault

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Granted 1995

## CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT

During a time when women had not yet emerged as leaders in careers such as national correspondent, journalist, or broadcast journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault provided an example of excellence for others to follow.

As the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Georgia, you started your career in a direction that few women have traveled. As a reporter for *The New Yorker* magazine, you brought a sense of fairness, extraordinary writing skills, and a style that characterized your uniqueness as a reporter. These very skills and your keen sense of what is significant led to your winning the Russell Sage Fellowship.

As a staff member of *Trans-Action Magazine* and an investigative reporter with the news team at WRC-TV in Washington, D.C. you continued to distinguish yourself by reporting significant issues that directly affected the public's daily lives.

You continued your excellence in journalism when joining *The New York Times* as a metropolitan reporter specializing in coverage of the urban black community. Throughout your ten years with *The New York Times*, you covered many significant issues, gained the respect of both colleagues and readers, and consistently reported issues in an honest, well thought out manner with the willingness to take a stand on controversial social issues.

As a role model for all women, your motivation and striving for excellence is reflected in the fact that in 1968 you were named "Journalist of the Year" by the National Association of Black Journalists and received the prestigious George Foster Peabody Broadcast Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism. Your excellence is again demonstrated by your work on the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour series "Apartheid's People" and "Out of Reach: People at the Bottom," both of which earned you National News and Documentary Emmy Awards.

From your earliest contact with journalism at the University of Georgia to your valued position with the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, you have continually pursued the reporting of significant and controversial issues with a sense of honesty and forthrightness that characterizes your own values and sense of fairness. For your many achievements, your pursuit of truth in journalism, and for the issues that you have yet to report, Governors State University Honors and Salutes you.